

Hobbies

You can make book coin collectors will like these gifts

By Roger Boye

Hobby books and publications have returned to vogue this gift-giving season in the wake of a sour coin market. Here's a stocking-full of titles that will shine no matter what the price of gold or silver.

● "Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money" by Chester L. Krause and Robert F. Lemke. Quick: How much are silver certificates worth? What about \$5 bills stamped "Hawaii"?

Answers to those and thousands of other questions are discovered with ease in the well-illustrated 208-page volume that lists all U.S. "greenbacks" issued since the Civil War. Even the

novice will profit from this gem of a book, thanks to an array of introductory material and a fascinating seven-page section on paper money printing errors.

For a copy, visit a coin shop or write to Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990. Cost is \$21.95 (plus \$2.50 shipping for mail orders). Be sure to ask for the 10th edition issued this fall.

● "A Guide Book of United States Coins" by R. S. Yeoman, 1992 (45th) edition. This is the famous "Red Book," one of the most widely sold references in the history of U.S. publishing. This is more than a retail price list of U.S. coins, and its popularity is due in large part to the wealth of historical data spread

over 288 pages.

The "Red Book" might pass as a "stocking stuffer" given its compact size (5 by 7 3/4 inches) and reasonable price (\$8.95). It is sold in most coin and book stores.

● "Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins," fourth edition (1991). The confusing world of grading—or determining the condition of a coin—is simplified with descriptions of all U.S. coin types in categories ranging from "about good" to "mint state perfect."

For the 352-page book (\$10.95) with a holograph on the cover, visit a coin shop or write to the American Numismatic Association, 818

N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903. Enclose an extra \$2 postage for mail orders.

● "Commemorative Coins of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia" by Q. David Bowers.

Using letters and other documents, Bowers describes in depth every commemorative coin made by Uncle Sam, and he tracks each item's market price since the time of issue. The 768-page tome is sold in some coin stores or can be ordered from Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., Box 1224, Wolfeboro, N.H. 03894. Cost is \$39.95 (softcover) plus \$3 for postage.